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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/825,879	04/05/2001	Daniel Patrick Connors	Y OR920000070	3754
21254	7590	02/11/2005	EXAMINER	
MCGINN & GIBB, PLLC 8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD SUITE 200 VIENNA, VA 22182-3817			O CONNOR, GERALD J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3627	

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/825,879

Applicant(s)

Connors et al.

Examiner

O'Connor

Art Unit

3627

The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on September 23, 2004 (Election).
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on May 17, 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election without traverse of the invention of Group I, claims 1-13, in the reply filed September 23, 2004 is hereby acknowledged.
2. Claims 14-20 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a non-elected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed September 23, 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brick et al. (US 6,269,342), in view of Adamec et al. (US 6,211,773).

Brick et al. disclose a system for restocking and repricing merchandise, comprising: a shelf label holder; and a hand-held unit which remotely programs said shelf label holder, but the shelf label holder of Brick et al. fails to include an illuminating section which is illuminated by

remote control of the hand-held unit under a predetermined condition. However, Adamec et al. disclose a similar system for restocking and repricing merchandise, and the shelf label of Adamec et al. indeed includes an illuminating section which is illuminated by remote control of the hand-held unit under a predetermined condition (see, in particular, column 4, line 32 et seq.). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Brick et al. so as to include an illuminating section in the shelf label which would be illuminated by remote control of the hand-held unit under a predetermined condition, in accordance with the teachings of Adamec et al., in order to facilitate locating the shelf label to be programmed.

Regarding claim 2, the system of Brick et al. includes a host controller for storing merchandise data and planogram data, processing said data and remotely controlling an operation of said hand-held unit and said shelf label holder.

Regarding claim 3, the shelf label holder of Brick et al. includes a shelf control unit, and the shelf label holder of Adamec et al. includes a shelf control unit for controlling an illumination of the shelf label holder; with the illuminating section illuminating as directed by the shelf control unit. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have further modified the system of Brick et al. so as to include that the shelf control unit would control illumination of the shelf label holder; with the illuminating section illuminating as directed by the shelf control unit, in accordance with the teachings of Adamec et al., in order to provide a convenient means of enabling the illumination section of the shelf label to be controlled.

Regarding claim 4, the system of Brick et al. includes that an identifying section of said shelf label is inserted into said shelf control unit.

Regarding claim 5, the system of Brick et al. includes that the shelf control unit comprises: a receptacle for receiving said identifying section of said shelf label; and a transceiver for transmitting signals to said host controller and said hand held unit and receiving signals from said host controller and said hand held unit.

Regarding claim 6, the system of Brick et al. includes that the hand-held unit comprises: a transceiver for transmitting signals to said host controller and said shelf control unit and receiving signals from said host controller and said shelf control unit; a display device for displaying merchandise data and planogram data; at least one of a bar code scanner and a keypad for inputting said data into said hand held unit; and a memory for storing said data.

Regarding claim 7, the system of Brick et al. includes that the host controller comprises: a memory for storing planogram data and merchandise data; a display device for displaying said data; at least one of a bar code scanner and a keypad for inputting said data; and a transceiver for transmitting signals to said shelf control unit and said hand held unit and receiving signals from said shelf control unit and said hand held unit.

Regarding claim 8, the system of Brick et al. includes that the merchandise information comprises vendor information data, pricing data and inventory data, and wherein said planogram data comprises correct merchandise shelf locations.

Regarding claim 9, the system of Brick et al. includes that the host controller transmits planogram data and merchandise data to said hand held unit and said hand held unit displays said data (see, in particular, column 14, line 3 et seq.).

Regarding claim 10, the system of Brick et al. includes that the identifying section comprises at least one of a bar code, a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag, and a magnetic identification tag.

Regarding claim 11, the system of Adamec et al. includes that the illuminating section comprises at least one of a light-emitting diode, an organic light emitting diode, a liquid crystal display element, a plasma display element, an incandescent light bulb, and a light pipe. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have further modified the shelf label holder of Brick et al. so as to include that the illuminating section would comprises at least one of a light-emitting diode, an organic light emitting diode, a liquid crystal display element, a plasma display element, an incandescent light bulb, and a light pipe, in accordance with the teachings of Adamec et al., in order to provide a convenient means of providing the illumination for the illumination section.

Regarding claim 12, the system of Brick et al. includes that the signals comprise at least one of a radiowave signal and infrared signal.

Regarding claim 13, the system of Brick et al. includes that the merchandise data comprises merchandise restocking and repricing information.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the disclosure.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication, or earlier communications, should be directed to the examiner, **Jerry O'Connor**, whose telephone number is **(703) 305-1525**, and whose facsimile number is **(703) 746-3976**.

The examiner can normally be reached weekdays from 9:30 to 6:00.

Inquiries of a general nature or simply relating to the status of the application should be directed to the receptionist, whose telephone number is **(703) 308-1113**.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Robert Olszewski, can be reached at **(703) 308-5183**.

Official replies to this Office action may be submitted by any *one* of fax, mail, or hand delivery. **Faxed replies are preferred and should be directed to (703) 872-9306** (fax-back auto-reply receipt service provided). Mailed replies should be addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450." Hand delivered replies should be left with the receptionist on the seventh floor of Crystal Park Five, 2451 Crystal Dr, Arlington, VA 22202.

GJOC

December 23, 2004

 (12-23-04)

Gerald J. O'Connor

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unit 3627